

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

Volunteer Deputy Chief Dwayne Ausherman	Firefighter Daniel Winters
Lieutenant Edward Burke	Firefighter Joshua Walter
Firefighter Martin Love	Lieutenant Christopher Morlan
Volunteer Sergeant Brian Joyner	Firefighter/Technician Larry Kessler
Volunteer Firefighter Matthew Lyons	Firefighter Tyrone Jenkins
Firefighter/Technician Brian Yankey	Lieutenant Lenne Stolberg
Firefighter Michael Webb	Firefighter Kevin Goforth
Firefighter Aaron Waltz	Firefighter Jason Dickinson

On March 18, 2011, Company 1, Rescue Squad 3 and Engine 23 were alerted for an apartment fire. Units arrived to find heavy smoke coming from the main entrance on the front of the building, and numerous occupants trapped on their balconies.

First on the scene were the Company 1 units, with the Incident Command System being established by Deputy Chief Dwayne Ausherman. The three-story apartment building had heavy smoke emanating from its main entrance, but because the location of the building reduced access for incoming units, the crew from Rescue Engine 11 was forced to advance a 300 foot 1-¾-inch hose line to the front door. WITH that hose line, Lieutenant Edward Burke, Firefighter Martin Love, Firefighter Brian Joyner and Firefighter Matthew Lyons entered into the building and found active fire and heavy smoke in the hallway of the first floor.

Tower 1's crew, consisting of Technician Brian Yankey, Firefighter Michael Webb, and Firefighter Aaron Waltz, was preparing to place ground ladders for rescue, when numerous occupants came spilling out of the smoke-filled front entrance. When informed that 12 occupants were still trapped on their balconies, crews from Tower 1 and Ambulance 19, (Firefighter Daniel Winters and Firefighter Joshua Walter), immediately placed ground ladders on the front side of the building to those balconies.

In the meantime, Engine 23 had arrived to the scene with a crew consisting of Lieutenant Lenne Stolberg, Firefighters Kevin Goforth and Jason Dickinson.

Engine 23's crew officer determined that a 28-foot extension ladder would be necessary for third-floor occupants awaiting rescue.

Rescue Squad 3's crew, Lieutenant Christopher Morlan, Technician Larry Kessler and Firefighter Tyrone Jenkins, then entered the building to the stairwell and was immediately met with zero visibility and moderate heat conditions. From there they proceeded up to Division 2 to initiate search and rescue operations. Because of the extreme danger in operating on the floor immediately above a fire, AND working in an open stairwell without hose line protection, the crew was forced to perform rapid searches. Searching a Division 2 apartment, the crew discovered two occupants in a back bedroom and quickly assisted them to the alpha-side balcony, where rescue crews brought them down a ladder to safety. Rescue Squad 3's crew then completed the primary search of Division 2 and moved on to continue search and rescue operations in Division 3.

Upon entering Division 3, Rescue Squad 3's crew experienced the same zero visibility and heat conditions and began to perform a rapid primary search of the floor. A search of one of the apartments found several adults and children desperately trying to get to a balcony. The crew quickly maneuvered them to a ladder and got them down to safety. A final primary search was made and concluded, and both crews exited the building to report the search status to command.

All occupants of the building were successfully assisted to safety that day.

For their outstanding efforts and actions during this incident, these brave crews are being recognized today with a Unit Citation.

We congratulate you all!